



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Economic Modernization through Efficient Reforms and Governance Enhancement (EMERGE) Project

OBJECTIVES

The EMERGE Project helps institute reforms that promote sustainable economic growth and enhance the competitiveness of the Philippine economy by supporting the efforts of pro-liberalization partners and stakeholders.

The EMERGE Project focuses on policy reform related to trade, investment, and fiscal reforms that are essential for accelerated and sustainable growth. The goal is to enhance Philippine competitiveness by increasing investment opportunities, improving inter- and intra-sector efficiency, and boosting business efficiency.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

In order to reach its overall economic reform goals, the EMERGE Project provides assistance in the form of:

- Policy and regulatory analysis;
- Activities that broaden the constituency for reform (e.g., dissemination of technical information and analytical results, designing public education programs); and
- Technical assistance in reform drafting and/or implementation.

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<http://www.usaid-ph.gov>

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POLICY REFORM THEMES

In support of the Philippine Medium Term Development Plan, the **EMERGE** Project's technical assistance addresses the following four policy reform themes:

- Fostering an improved and sustainable fiscal position by raising national tax and revenue effort and developing efficiency in public sector expenditure management;
- Improving competitiveness and expanding trade and investments by enhancing trade liberalization and facilitation as well as reducing policy-induced restrictions and transactions cost of investments;
- Raising investment efficiency in infrastructure sectors by lowering the cost of inter-island shipping and road transport, advancing telecommunications liberalization, strengthening the role of Local Government Units (LGUs) in infrastructure development, and reinforcing sustainable private sector participation in infrastructure;
- Promoting a well-functioning financial system through competitive parity by recognizing the differentiated roles performed by different submarkets such as equity, fixed income, foreign currencies and derivatives, and treating them as both complements and substitutes.



PARTNERSHIPS

Manned by Filipino and international experts, the EMERGE Project responds to requests for assistance from government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

EMERGE facilitates working relationships with its counterparts by providing technical assistance in various reform areas identified by a multi-sectoral oversight committee called the Policy Advisory Council chaired by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

At the same time, EMERGE coordinates its efforts closely with the other implementers of USAID/Philippines' Targeted Interventions in Economic Reform and Governance (TIERG) Program, i.e., the two Filipino institutional grantees, the Ateneo de Manila University Consortium (EPRA Project – Economic Policy Reform and Advocacy Project) and the De La Salle University Angelo King

Institute - Philexport Consortium (PACT Project – Partnership and Advocacy for Competitiveness and Trade Project), the Rule of Law Effectiveness (ROLE) Project, and other donor agencies to ensure that the Philippine government counterparts receive complete packages of technical assistance.

Upon the request of its counterparts, EMERGE undertakes rigorous technical analysis and supports policy initiatives to help identify and effectively implement economic policy reforms. Advisors and consultants are mobilized from the Philippines' leading firms and universities, as well as from international sources. EMERGE also arranges training, workshops and study tours for decision and policy makers.





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REFORM GOALS

The specific goals of reform under the major policy reform themes include:

Sustainable Fiscal Position

- Improved tax administration
- Sustained increase in tax collection
- Streamlined agencies
- Streamlined budgets
- Procurement reform implemented

Expanded Trade and Investments

- Tariff restrictions and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) eased
- Trade facilitated
- Administration of SPS measures streamlined
- Agriculture biotechnology safely and responsibly used
- Investment climate improved
- Investment facilitated

More Competitive and Efficiently Regulated Infrastructure

- Inter-island shipping cost reduced
- Ports efficiency increased
- Roads adequately maintained
- Telecommunications access increased and costs lowered
- ICT institutions expanded and developed
- LGU capacities for infrastructure development strengthened
- BOT contract governance improved
- Private sector participation enhanced through privatization

Vibrant Banking and Capital Markets

- A unified strategic approach among stakeholders adopted
- Supervisory oversight and regulatory practices improved
- World-class support infrastructure developed
- Impediments from the primary markets removed
- Credible and transparent market prices instilled

EMERGE Partner-Clients

- ❑ National Economic Development Authority
- ❑ Department of Finance
- ❑ Department of Trade and Industry
- ❑ Department of Budget and Management
- ❑ Department of Transportation and Communication
- ❑ Department of Agriculture
- ❑ Bureau of Customs
- ❑ Bureau of Internal Revenue
- ❑ Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- ❑ Securities and Exchange Commission
- ❑ National Telecommunications Commission
- ❑ Commission for Information and Communication Technology
- ❑ Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
- ❑ Bureau of Food and Drugs
- ❑ Board of Investments

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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